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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/829,423	04/22/2004	Chihiro Hirose	Q81199	8805
23373	7590	03/24/2006	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			NGUYEN, TAN QUANG	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3661	

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



## **DETAIL ACTION**

### ***Notice to Applicant(s)***

1. This application has been examined. Claims 1-17 are pending.
2. The prior art submitted on April 22, 2004 has been considered.
3. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. § 119, which have been placed of record in the file.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nimura et al. (6,125,323).
6. As per claims 1 and 2, Nimura et al. disclose the invention as claimed which includes a road map database including node data and link data (see at least figures 5 and 6), and a search device for calculating link costs as for individual links that correspond to individual road sections that consist of individual route options from a first point to a second point on the basis of the road map database and searching one of the individual route options whose total link cost is the lowest, wherein the search device

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increase or decrease the link cost base on a difficult turn, i.e. the right turn or the left turn (see at least figures 16, 17, column 27, lines 3-15, and column 36, lines 46-61).

7. As per claim 3, Nimura et al. also disclose that the search cost is determined by the road environment such as a width of the road (see at least column 29, lines 17-20).

8. As per claim 4, Nimura et al. disclose the search device firstly calculates link costs of all the road sections and then adds the additional cost for the difficult links based on the difficult of the difficult turn (see at least figures 16, 17 and column 9, lines 38-53).

9. As per claims 5-7, Nimura et al. further disclose that the cost is increase or decrease based on the turn left, turn right or straight (from the forming angle of the links) and the different predetermined values are added the cost (see at least figures 16, 17 and column 27).

10. As per claim 9, Nimura et al. disclose the system includes an inputting device for inputting a starting point as the first point and a destination point as the second point, and an outputting device for outputting the searched optima route in a predetermined format (see at least column 14, line 62 to column 14, line 47, and column 16, lines 16-29).

11. With respect to claims 8, 10 and 12-17, the limitations of these claims have been noted in the rejections above. They are therefore considered rejected as set forth above.

12. With respect to claim 11, Nimura et al. further disclose that the system includes a center device and a navigation terminal device which are connected to each other via a communication network, wherein at least part of the road map data base is included in the center device (see at least column 48, lines 19-67).

***Conclusion***

13. All claims are rejected.

14. The following references are cited as being of general interest: Poppen (5,893,081), Yagyu et al. (5,899,955), Zuber (5,910,177), Mutsuga et al. (5,911,773), Tamai (5,938,720), Aito et al. (5,991,689), Poppen et al. (6,377,887), and Sugiyama et al. (6,490,522).

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Tan Q. Nguyen, whose telephone number is (571) 272-6966. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 5:30 AM-4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black, can be reached on (571) 272-6956.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to the Official Fax Center: (571) 273-8300.

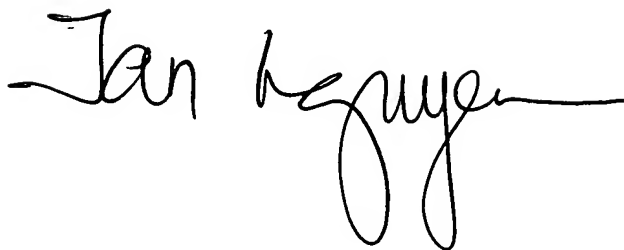
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March 18, 2006

**TAN Q. NGUYEN**  
*Primary Examiner*  
*Art Unit 3661*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tan Nguyen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the word "Nguyen".